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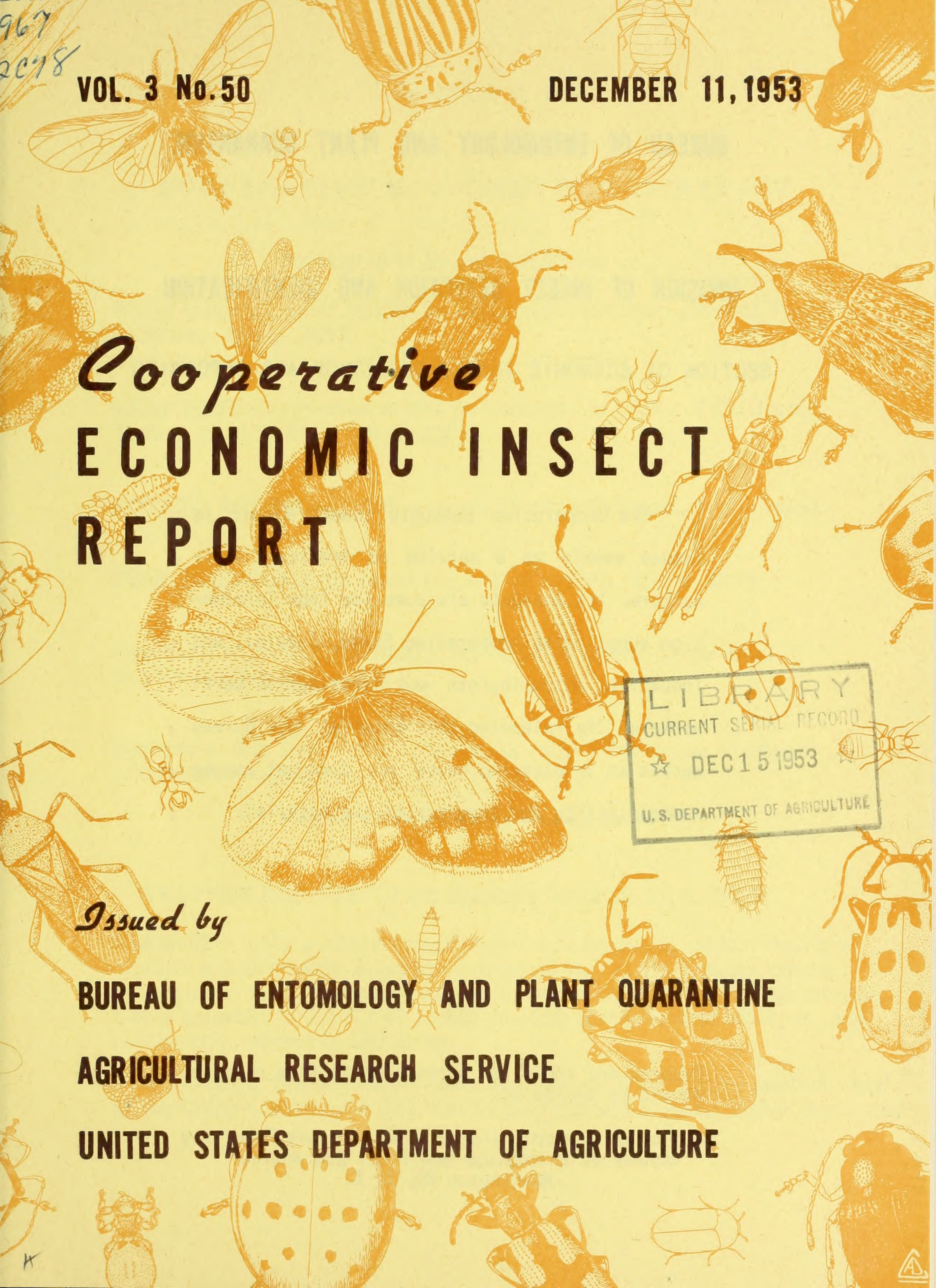

VOL. 3 No. 50 DECEMBER 11, 1953

Cooperative
ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

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BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

DIVISION OF INSECT DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

SECTION OF ECONOMIC INSECT DETECTION AND REPORTING

The Cooperative Economic Insect Report is issued weekly as a service to American Agriculture. Its contents are compiled from information supplied by cooperating State, Federal, and industrial entomologists and other agricultural workers. In releasing this material the Bureau serves as a clearing house and does not assume responsibility for accuracy of the material.

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Section of Economic Insect Detection and Reporting
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Volume 3 December 11, 1953 No. 50

COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC INSECT REPORT

Highlights of Insect Conditions

Heavy infestations of MITES on grain reported from several Texas counties. (page 833).

LEAF MINERS reported active on tomatoes in areas of California, Texas, and Florida. (page 834).

POTATO ROT NEMATODE reported from Wisconsin. (page 835).

PINK BOLLWORM gin trash inspection report. (page 837).

Summary of INSECT CONDITIONS -1953-in Maine (page 839) and Washington (page 842).

Reports in this issue are for the week ending December 4 unless otherwise designated.

* *

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 8, 1953

The week's main weather features included frequent, widespread precipitation that greatly helped to overcome last fall's drought effects upon winter crops and water supplies, unseasonably mild temperatures, heavy snowfall in the Rocky Mountains and north-central interior, and destructive storms in the South.

Precipitation, that averaged more than one-half inch in the eastern half of the Country with over 2 inches in the Gulf and Atlantic States, furnished adequate surface moisture for fall grains and replenished subsoil moisture in many sections. However, in south-central Iowa and a belt extending from eastern Kansas through the Ohio Valley to western Pennsylvania where the fall drought had been particularly severe, rainfall amounts generally were less than an inch and not adequate to restore subsoil moisture and rain water supplies, with some water hauling still necessary in scattered localities. The heaviest rains fell in the central Gulf coastal sections where weekly totals that ranged up to 10 inches or more caused some flooding in southern Alabama. In the western half of the Nation precipitation was moderate to heavy in the Pacific Northwest and light to moderate elsewhere, except very light in western and southwestern Texas and southern portions of New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In southern Arizona ranges are still very dry and stock water supplies continue short.

The heaviest snowfall of the week occurred as a general cyclonic storm moved from the far Southwest northward across the Great Plains to Lake Superior on the 3rd and 4th. Heavy drifting occurred in Colorado, western Kansas, central and eastern Nebraska, and eastern South Dakota, and much of Minnesota. Main highways in eastern South Dakota were closed from 12 to 24 hours and minor roads for several days. Glaze, sleet, snow and high winds in Minnesota damaged utility lines and forced many schools to close. On the 4th and 5th a second storm moved from the far Southwest to the Great Lakes Region again bringing snow, although generally much lighter, to a belt extending from the central Great Plains to the upper Great Lakes.

As colder air swept across the Southern States in the wake of these general cyclonic storms severe local storms caused heavy damage in the South, particularly in Louisiana and Mississippi where several tornadoes occurred. One of these struck Vicksburg, Miss., on the 5th causing at least 30 deaths, over 200 injuries, and property losses, based on preliminary estimates, of $25,000,000. During 1953, an unusual year for great tornado disasters, the Vicksburg tornado was the seventh of these storms to cause property damage of $15,000,000 or more

The week was warmer than usual everywhere, except in the Southwest where it was a few degrees colder than normal. The greatest plus departures, about 10°, occurred in the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes Region, yet a brief cold snap in this region on the 5th and 6th brought the first subzero minima of the season to northern Minnesota. The lowest temperatures reported so far this season in the far Southwest was -17° at Maverick, Ariz. (Summary Supplied by U. S. Weather Bureau).

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

MITES ON GRAIN - TEXAS - Infestations of winter grain mites have been reported from McLennan, Coryell, Falls, Hill, Tarrant, Johnson, Rockwall, Palo Pinto, Erath, Lampasas and Bell Counties. Heaviest infestation, some fields very heavily infested, found in Falls, McLennan, Hill, Johnson, and Rockwall Counties. Recent rains have apparently reduced infestations greatly, but probably only temporary. (Cowan, Davis, Parencia, Garner, Meadows, Norris and Davis).

WHITE GRUBS - OKLAHOMA - Estimated 500 acres of wheat plowed up in Tillman County because of white grub damage. (Bower).

FALL ARMYWORM (Laphygma frugiperda) - TEXAS Attacking mature corn ears in Hidalgo County. Also infesting onions. (Griffith).

SOUTHERN CORN ROOTWORM (Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi) - TEXAS - Light infestation, 1 to 2 beetles per square yard, in grain field in Rockwall County. (Garner).

LEAFHOPPERS - TEXAS - Light infestation on small grain and vetch in Rockwall County. (Garner).

GREENBUG (Toxoptera graminum) - TEXAS - Light isolated infestation found on volunteer wheat in wheat field in Moore County. Only 3 to 4 per clump of wheat. Light isolated infestation also in Randall County. (Daniels).

APHIDS - GEORGIA - Causing damage to oats and possibly other small grains in several areas. (Jordan).

WHITE-FRINGED BEETLES - ALABAMA - Specimens taken from infestation at Headland in Henry County identified as Graphognathus leucoloma fecundus. There is no farmland involved in this very small infestation. NORTH CAROLINA - Specimens from infestation found August 1, 1953 at Albemarle, Stanly County, have been identified as G. leucoloma dubius. Infestation in this county comprises approximately 1,000 acres. (Bruce, December 1).

BEET ARMYWORM (Laphygma exigua) numerous on young alfalfa at Yuma, ARIZONA. Some ALFALFA CATERPILLAR (Colias philodice eurytheme) also involved. (McCain).

FRUIT INSECTS

CITRUS PESTS - TEXAS - (Lower Rio Grande Valley) - Chaff scale (Parlatoria pergandii) widely distributed during this season. Percentage of live scale low at present. Glover scale (Lepidosaphes gloverii) at lowest level since rather large build-up in certain groves following freeze. Citrus rust mite (Phyllocoptruta oleivora) population very low. (Griffith, Dec. 4).

CORRECTION:

Vol. 3, no. 47, page 798 under summary of fruit insect conditions in Yakima Valley, Washington, 1953, by Newcomer. Sentence beginning "GREEN PEACH APHID--" should read as follows: Green peach aphid (Myzus persicae) became injurious in May; black cherry aphid (M. cerasi) populations built up in May and became injurious during June; mealy plum aphid (Hyalopterus arundinis) was injurious in localized areas in July; while other fruit aphids were scarce.

TRUCK CROP INSECTS

LEAF MINERS - TEXAS - Medium to heavy infestation on peppers and tomatoes in Hidalgo County. (Griffith). FLORIDA - Liriomyza sp. becoming evident in tomato fields in South Florida. (Wolfenbarger). CALIFORNIA - Liriomyza sp. infestations on late tomatoes in Orange and San Diego Counties are generally light in most fields. (Campbell).

CABBAGE LOOPER (Trichoplusia ni) - ARIZONA - Eggs and larvae increasing in fields of young lettuce at Yuma. (McCain).

CABBAGE WEBWORM (Hellula rogatalis) - ARIZONA - Infesting cabbage at Yuma. Not severe. (Czajkowski).

Potato Rot Nematode Found in Wisconsin

The following statement to State Plant Pest Control Officials has been received from E. L. Chambers, Chief of Division of Plant Industry and State Entomologist, Wisconsin.

"On October 15, we advised you that the Potato Rot Nematode (Ditylenchus destructor) had been found in a potato growing area of Langlade County, Wisconsin. At that time we advised you that we would keep you informed on later developments.

"To this end, we wish to report that the initial survey of all the potatoes in storage in that area has been completed. The potatoes from the fields of approximately 250 growers in that area have been inspected in storage. Thirteen fields were found infested on eleven farms. All but three of these farms were within one area within six miles of Antigo. One was outside of the particular area at White Lake, about 15 miles east of Antigo, and the second at a point about 20 miles north and just over the Forest County line, while the third is at Lily, about 19 miles northeast.

"These potatoes were, of course, all immediately impounded. Any culls and infested potatoes moved from these infested fields have been consigned to a large pit, bulldozed by the County Highway Department, and are being treated with lime and covered as dumped, with warning signs posted to warn against their use for food purposes. For interstate shipment, only potatoes meeting the requirements for U. S. # 1 potatoes are now allowed to leave the infested fields; and these must be so certified and, likewise, must be free from dirt, visible nematode infestation, and packed in 50# paper sacks. The Emergency Order covering the movement of these potatoes provides, "that upon order direct from the receiver, potatoes may be released from quarantine if upon inspection they are certified as U. S, Commercial or U. S. No. 2, with a decay tolerance not exceeding that for U. S. No. 1 and free from any visible evidence of potato rot nematode infestation."

"Potato shipments by truck or rail are being checked to see that they go into channels for immediate consumption and not reconsigned where their identity might be lost. Copies of the inspection certificate showing the date, their manner of shipment, and the consignee are being sent to the inspector of the destination state. No potatoes are being consigned to out-of-state markets without prior permission from the state quarantine official. To date, the only out-of-state shipments certified have gone to Illinois and Iowa. Only potatoes for processing in Dubuque have been sent into Iowa. The bulk of these potatoes from the infested farms has now been disposed of and the balance are expected to be moved within the next few weeks."

APHIDS - ARIZONA - Have not developed in sufficient numbers on lettuce at Yuma or Phoenix to necessitate control except to lessen likelihood of winged migrants spreading a mosaic disease. (Bibby). FLORIDA - Rather rapid increase of turnip aphid (Rhopalosiphum pseudobrassicae) on turnips in Gadsden County area. (May). CALIFORNIA - Cabbage aphid (Brevicoryne brassicae) infestations in young cabbage fields in Orange and San Diego Counties are light to medium. Control measures required. (Campbell). VIRGINIA - Cabbage aphid problem on winter kale, collards and broccoli in Norfolk area. Moderate numbers of green peach aphid on spinach in Norfolk area. (Brubaker, Greenwood, Hofmaster).

IMPORTED CABBAGEWORM (Pieris rapae) - VIRGINIA - Relatively abundant in some fields of curly kale not adequately treated in Norfolk area. (Brubaker, Greenwood, Hofmaster).

CUTWORMS - ARIZONA - Continue bothersome in untreated fields of lettuce and carrots at Yuma. (McCain).

THRIPS - ARIZONA - Damaging numbers on young lettuce at Yuma after thinning and weeding. (McCain).

VEGETABLE WEEVIL (Listroderes costirostris obliquus) - FLORIDA - Rather rapid increase in populations on turnips in Gadsden County area. (May).

WIREWORMS - TEXAS - Medium infestation on tomatoes in Hidalgo County. (Griffith).

FIELD CRICKET (Acheta assimilis) - FLORIDA - Abundant on rockland soils in South Florida. Injurious to tomato plants. (Wolfenbarger).

SOUTHERN GREEN STINKBUG (Nezara viridula) - FLORIDA - Reported abundant in South Florida area. Control measures required on tomato fields. (Wolfenbarger).

SPIDER MITES - OKLAHOMA - Infesting chrysanthemums in a greenhouse in Kingfisher. (Bower). ARIZONA - Increasing on old lettuce at Yuma. (Czajkowski).

A RHODODENDRON SCALE (Aspidiotus pseudospinosus) - CONNECTICUT - Collected on rhododendron at Fairfield. First record for State. (Cantelo).

A BUDMITE (Eriophyes convolvens) - CALIFORNIA - Infestation damaged Euonymus sp. in Orange County during November. First noticeable damage from this mite since 1937. Also collected recently in San Diego County. (Keifer).

FLORIDA RED SCALE (Chrysomphalus aonidum) - ARIZONA - Severely infesting pandanus in Phoenix nursery. (Brantlinger).

COTTON INSECTS

PINK BOLLWORM (Pectinophora gossypiella) - This season's gin trash inspection for pink bollworm has been completed in all states except Arizona. Some additional inspection will be made in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. No pink bollworms were found in CALIFORNIA or BAJA CALIFORNIA and none have been found to date in any new area of ARIZONA. Final tabulations show that two new counties in ARKANSAS, ten in OKLAHOMA and three in LOUISIANA have been found infested during this season. This makes the spread of the pink bollworm to 15 new counties in 1953, compared with 49 in 1952, 19 in 1951 and 42 in 1950; showing the least spread of the past four years. (Jeffery).

FOREST INSECTS

A TAMARISK SCALE (Chionaspis etrusca) - ARIZONA - Severe on Tamarix gallica in spite of numerous parasites and predators in both Maricopa and Yuma Counties. Same or similar species infesting tamarisk windbreak at Phoenix. (Bibby, Warren).

INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

LICE ON CATTLE - OKLAHOMA - Heavy populations in Cotton County. (Hudson).

STORED-PRODUCT INSECTS

CARPET BEETLE (Anthrenus scrophulariae) - OKLAHOMA - Damaging wall-to-wall carpeting. Some rugs practically new. (Stiles).

RECENT IMPORTANT INTERCEPTIONS AT PORTS OF ENTRY

Avocados from Mexico intercepted recently at Mexican border ports were found infested with the following foreign pests not known to occur in the continental United States: living larvae of the avocado seed moth, Stenoma catenifer Wlsm., in the seeds of avocados in ships' stores at Brownsville (Mabry), and living larvae of two avocado weevils, Conotrachelus aguacata Barber., in the seed of avocado in baggage at Laredo (Trotter, Ragsdale, Baker) and El Paso (Vertrees), and Heilipus lauri Boh., in avocado seed for propagation in mail at El Paso (Smith, Williamson).

SUMMARY OF INSECT CONDITIONS - 1953

MAINE

Reported by F. H. Lathrop, P. N. Mosher

Forest Insects: GYPSY MOTH (Porthetria dispar) outbreak in southern Maine, where 142,000 acres of hardwood were more than 50 percent defoliated, of which 58,000 acres were 100 percent defoliated. Severe infestations were reported as far north as Alton (Penobscot County), and as far east as Cherryfield (Washington County). The outbreak was one of the most destructive ever seen in Maine. Indications are that there may be a severe outbreak again in 1954. EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR (Malacosoma americanum) - Severe infestation practically throughout Maine, especially on roadside trees and on hedgerows. FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR (M. disstria) outbreak caused severe injury, especially to poplar and maple, in central Maine; severe injury to hardwoods in northern areas of Franklin County; less severe infestation extending into Penobscot and Hancock Counties. One of the largest infestations of BROWN-TAIL MOTH (Nygmia phaeorrhoea) in recent years occurred in Waldo County; small outbreak in Hancock County. SATIN MOTH (Stilpnotia salicis) infestation was widespread. Injury to poplar trees. ELM LEAF BEETLE (Galerucella xanthomelanena) infestations were locally severe in southern counties. SPRUCE BUDWORM (Choristoneura fumiferana) caused light injury in western Maine and in Aroostook County. BEECH SCALE (Crytococcus fagi) caused severe injury in northern, central, and western areas. BIRCH SKELETONIZER (Bucculatrix canadensiella) outbreak caused moderate injury in northern Maine and in New Brunswick. PINE LEAF APHID and SPRUCE CONE GALL were locally very abundant in southern area. PINE TUFTED CATERPILLAR, BALSAM WOOLLY APHID, LARCH CASEBEARER, BIRCH LEAF MINER, BIRCH SAWFLY, UGLY NEST CATERPILLAR, and ALDER FLEA BEETLE were observed in about normal abundance.

Forest Insect Outlook in Maine - 1954 (Reported by Maine Forest Service) - Light trap catches this year throughout the State show that most of the forest pests which are attracted to traps are remaining in about the same numbers as other years, thus not causing too much concern. A few, however, came to the traps in numbers large enough to be considered dangerous. One of these, BIRCH LEAF SKELETONIZER, which was abundant this year, was picked up in the light traps in Enfield and Millinocket in large numbers. This may indicate that there will be a spread west and south of this year's heavily infested area. In 1952 many FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR moths were picked up in traps within a belt crossing the north-central section of the State. Heavy infestations of this insect occurred last summer in this area; therefore, the much larger numbers received from some of these traps this year could indicate a more severe infestation next year. Two other high catches of this insect this year were in light traps located at Allagash and T15R13. These areas will bear watching in 1954. LESSER MAPLE SPANWORM, a not too common pest, was picked up in large enough numbers at Big Squaw Mt., Enfield, T11R8, and Lower Cupsuptic traps this year to indicate that the insect is building up and will bear watching in the coming season. Predictions based on an egg mass survey taken in those areas hit by GYPSY MOTH this year show that unless a very severe winter occurs those infested areas will be very heavily defoliated next season. Areas lightly defoliated this year will be heavily stripped next season making an estimated total of 150,000 acres severely defoliated in the State in 1954. EUROPEAN SPRUCE SAWFLY has been building up gradually and will probably continue heavy in spots in the coming season.

Potato Insects: APHIDS - Season started with light to moderate infestations on winter host plants. Weather during June was favorable for migration to summer food plants. Populations on potatoes increased rapidly through June and July; reached a peak on untreated potatoes about August 20, when unusually large populations were present. Buckthorn aphid (Aphis abbreviata) and potato aphid (Macrosiphum solanifolii) were most abundant. Somewhat greater infestation of green peach aphid (Myzus persicae) than in 1952. Foxglove aphid (Myzus solani) was generally present but in small numbers.

Severe aphid injury on untreated areas was aggravated by drought. Yields were little affected by aphids where control measures were applied. Local infestations of COLORADO POTATO BEETLE (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) caused some injury in Aroostook County where no control measures were applied. POTATO FLEA BEETLE (*Epitrix cucumeris*) was light to moderate. POTATO LEAFHOPPER (*Empoasca fabae*) infestation was light. WIRE-WORM infestation was generally moderate throughout State. TARNISHED PLANT BUG (*Lygus lineolaris*) was about normal.

Corn Insects: EUROPEAN CORN BORER (*Pyrausta nubilalis*) infestation generally was light throughout Maine; significant injury generally confined to early corn; locally moderate to severe infestations occurred in some fields in Cumberland and Somerset Counties. Widely scattered outbreaks of CUTWORMS caused severe injury. FALL ARMYWORM (*Laphygma frugiperda*) caused more than usual injury to corn. TARNISHED PLANT BUG was more abundant than usual in the Newport area (Penobscot County).

Truck and Garden Insects:

SEED-CORN MAGGOT (*Hylemya cilicrura*) accounted for poor stand of beans in many fields. CABBAGE APHID (*Brevicoryne brassicae*) infestation was severe in Palmyra (Somerset County). MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE, CABBAGEWORMS, STRIPED CUCUMBER BEETLE, TOMATO HORNWORM, SQUASH BUG, ONION MAGGOT, CABBAGE MAGGOT, FLEA BEETLES, GARDEN SLUGS were observed in generally moderate infestations.

Apple Insects: CODLING MOTH (*Carpocapsa pomonella*) attracted more than usual attention in southern area. APPLE APHID (*Aphis pomi*) was more abundant than usual; severe infestation in some orchards; some blackening of fruit from sooty fungus on the honeydew. ROSY APPLE APHID (*Anuraphis roseus*) was slightly more abundant than usual; injury generally not important. APPLE FRUIT FLY or APPLE MAGGOT (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) - Slightly more than the usual infestation. WHITE APPLE LEAFHOPPER (*Typhlocyba pomaria*) was more abundant than usual; severe infestations in some orchards. EUROPEAN RED MITE (*Metatetranychus ulmi*) infestation general, moderate. TARNISHED PLANT BUG injury increasing.

Blueberry Insects: CUTWORMS - Light to moderate infestation and injury through Knox, Lincoln, Hancock, and Washington Counties. Generally moderate infestation of BLUEBERRY THRIPS in Hancock County. Light injury. BLUEBERRY FRUIT FLY or BLUEBERRY MAGGOT (*Rhagoletis pomonella*) - Generally more than usual injury; frequent showers made dusting less effective where the land was not redusted.

Forage Crop Insects: Moderate infestation of ARMYWORMS occurred on winter rye and grass in Washington County; local outbreaks on oats in Aroostook County and on timothy in Waldo County. ENGLISH GRAIN APHID (*Macrosiphum granarium*) - Light infestation, but more than usual in Aroostook County. LESSER CLOVER LEAF WEEVIL (*Hypera nigrirostris*) observed infesting hay in Penobscot County. SPITTLEBUG infestation was generally very light. Standard sweeping technique in several fields in mid-September showed from 6 to 21 adults. PEA APHID (*Macrosiphum pisi*) was generally present on legumes but no large populations observed.

Insects Affecting Man & Animals: FLIES IN BARNS - Generally heavy infestation; insecticidal control unsatisfactory.

WASHINGTON

Reported by H. S. Telford

Vegetable Insects: GREEN PEACH APHID (*Myzus persicae*) got out of control in several eastern Washington potato counties. Insecticides heretofore effective were unable to control this pest this last season. A severe outbreak of CORN EARWORM (*Heliothis armigera*) occurred on sweet corn in the lower Yakima valley. PEA WEEVIL (Bruchus pisorum) infestation was about average or perhaps slightly higher than normal. ONION MAGGOT (Hylemya antiqua) caused severe injury to onions in the Walla Walla area. PEA APHID (Macrosiphum pisi) infestation was about average, or perhaps below normal. SYMPHILIDS were first recovered in economic numbers in western Washington where they are damaging a wide range of crops, particularly vegetables and small fruits.

Shade Tree and Ornamental Insects: Eastern Washington experienced a particularly high infestation of several species of aphids on shade trees. NORWAY MAPLE APHID (Periphyllus lyropictus) was particularly damaging to maples. SLUGS are becoming more of a problem on ornamentals, flowering plants, and small fruits in the Puget Sound area.

Forage Crop Insects: LYGUS BUGS are a chronic problem on alfalfa grown for seed. CLOVER ROOT BORER (Hylastinus obscurus) is showing up fairly abundant on clover in western counties. PEA APHID was fairly common on alfalfa grown for seed, but perhaps not as severe in '53 as '52. SPITTLEBUG is becoming increasingly abundant on many forage crops in western area. A SPIDER MITE (Paratetranychus pratensis) caused severe damage to grass grown for seed in the lower Yakima Valley. GRASSHOPPER aad MORMON CRICKET numbers are less than average.

Grain Insects: ENGLISH GRAIN APHID (Macrosiphum granarium) attacks on small grains were unprecedented in the eastern wheat area. Populations as high as 75 to 80 per head were encountered. Considerable control was undertaken. BROWN WHEAT MITE (Petrobia latens) showed up in damaging numbers for the first time this past season. Some sprays were applied on several large fields in the dry farm area near Prosser.

Tree Fruit Insects: ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH (Grapholitha molesta) caused some damage to fruit in the lower Yakima valley; the first notices since 1948. Although not spreading rapidly or causing extensive damage, it is increasing. CODLING MOTH (Carpocapsa pomonella) was about normal. CHERRY FRUIT FLY (Rhagoletis cingulata) fly emergence was much later in 1952 and 1953. As a result, much of the crop was harvested before it could be attacked. Damage did occur, however, on untreated orchards or orchards that had not had the recommended spray program. Growers experienced difficulty in controlling GREEN PEACH APHID on peaches in early spring. APPLE APHID infestation was heavier this year than previously. PEAR PSYLLA (Psylla pyricola) was about normal. MITE infestations were about average, but increased resistance to certain acaricides is noted.

Small Fruit Insects: SPITTLEBUGS are becoming more troublesome on strawberries. WEEVILS (Brachyrhinus spp.) were a chronic problem on strawberries, as well as on other small fruits. STRAWBERRY CROWN BORER (Tyloderma fragariae) was also troublesome.

Bee Poisoning: A pre-pink spray of DDT or parathion was recommended in 1953 for certain apple and pear insects in eastern Washington. Occasionally growers would make this application too late, resulting in severe bee poisoning. Most of the complaints involved parathion and some of these were concerned with aircraft applications. Bee poisoning is still a problem on blooming alfalfa seed. Some growers are using parathion for the control of mites, pea aphid, and lygus bugs, while bees are actively foraging, resulting in losses. Restrictive legislative orders this last year have done a lot to prevent the indiscriminate use of insecticides on alfalfa grown for seed.